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T-554 P.001/004 F-887

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of inventor Saraf

Serial No. 09/870,986

Group Art Unit: 1634

Filed: 06/01/2001

Examiner: Chakrabarti

For: **"BIO-CHIP TO SEQUENCE UNTAGGED DNA"**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

COMMUNICATION AND AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the telephonic interview 03/21/2003, please amend the application as follows:

Please cancel claims 3 and 24-50.

Please amend claim 1, an edited version of which follows and a clean version of which is attached.

Claim 1 (thrice amended) A tagging-free method to detect the binding of untagged single stranded nucleic acid to an untagged material of interest, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a sensor comprised of a first layer and a second layer wherein said first layer comprises an untagged single stranded nucleic acid and wherein said second layer comprises a photoluminescent material, and wherein said first layer and said second layer are separate layers, and wherein said second layer comprises material selected from the group consisting of aromatic polymers, doped or undoped metal oxides, sulfides, arsenides, tellurides, and nitride and phosphide nanocomposites;